

President's Column

Sha'ar Zahav's Children

In January 1986, CSZ's membership included six children, and they rarely attended Friday evening services. Today, 45 children are members of our synagogue and at least one or two children are present each Friday. I don't think there's any one particular reason why this growth occurred, or why it happened so quickly. Nor do I think it was easy, especially in the beginning, for many members to accept. But I do think that three primary reasons—the Family Chavurah, Rabbi Kahn's dedication to the visibility and future of the children in our congregation, and the maturity and acceptance of our members—have contributed significantly to more families with children joining our synagogue.

Not surprisingly, the Family Chavurah has been a major reason many families with children have joined the synagogue. By providing monthly programs which combine education and fun for the children, and an opportunity to meet and support each other for the parents, the Chavurah has created an environment where it's okay to be gay or lesbian, a parent, and Jewish. Many members with children who join Sha'ar Zahav have already been active in the Chavurah. Having found a supportive place, they then give back to the congregation by becoming members.

Rabbi Kahn, too, has had a great influence on the numbers of members with children. He has actively supported the programs of the Chavurah and the inclusion of children in the complete fabric of Sha'ar Zahav's life. At our Friday evening services, the place where our members most frequently, regularly and sizably come together, Rabbi Kahn virtually always includes children in the services. There are probably more kids at Sha'ar Zahav who know the secret about opening the Ark than there are adults who know!



Photo by Amy Blasenheim.

Kadimah

Kadimah, our new religious school program, began with the call of the Shofar on September 17. We have engaged two wonderful teachers for our school this year.

Steve Grolnic is teaching the Aleph class. Steve is a pre-school teacher at Gan Avraham, the child-care program at Temple Beth Abraham in Oakland. He has a great love for children and is a charismatic teacher.

The teacher of the Bet class is Phyllis

Mintzer. Phyllis is a graduate of Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion and is certified by the Reform movement as a Reform Jewish educator. Formerly principal and education director at several Bay Area synagogues, Phyllis has returned to teaching in order to join the Kadimah staff. She brings deep reservoirs of experience, wisdom and nurturance to our school. We are pleased to welcome Phyllis and Steve to our staff and congregational family.

Although the Family Chavurah and Rabbi Kahn have had great impact on our membership demographics, they aren't alone. Many of our members have eagerly worked on children's programming.

Our Ritual Committee, for example, holds regular children's services on Friday evenings. Members of the congregation both with and without children participate in these services; attendance is usually around 40 people. In addition to the Friday evening children's services, our Ritual Committee conducts children's services at High Holidays.

About 50 people attended this year.

How about our parties and games? At Chanukah last year, we had an afternoon party with special programs (a clown, face painting, story telling) for our children. This year's Chanukah Committee is again planning an afternoon party, complete with children's programs. And at this year's synagogue softball game, Evan Kuluk (age 6) scored the first run.

As I stated at the beginning of this column, the acceptance of children into the membership of CSZ hasn't been easy

(Continued on page 9)

Pledge of Non-Compliance

First they came for the communists, and I did not speak up because I was not a communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak up because I was not a Jew. They came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak up because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out.

Proposition 102, the Dannemeyer/Gann AIDS Initiative, and Proposition 96, the Block AIDS Initiative, are of concern to *all* of us—not just people who are living with AIDS/ARC, not just people who are positive, not just gay men, not just gays and lesbians. Prop. 102 will effectively end all confidentiality for HIV-related information. You must report yourself and your sexual partners if you have AIDS, ARC or have tested positive; your name can be reported by someone else—even as a prank—and you could be tested against your will and be forced to turn in your sexual partners; your doctor *must* report your name if she or he knows or *believes* that you may be at risk for AIDS; employers and insurance companies can require testing without consent; and public health departments do not have to keep test results confidential.

Prop. 96, if passed, will primarily permit involuntary testing of people arrested (not convicted) under a variety of circumstances, including several in which the AIDS virus cannot be transmitted.

These propositions will spread fear, encourage discrimination, cost millions of dollars to enforce and drive underground people who need medical attention and education. If our community has responded to this epidemic by summoning forth the best in us, these initiatives reflect the worst possible response. Our lives and health are being used as political instruments for the advancement of the political careers of unscrupulous and mean-spirited individuals. You cannot vote if you do not register; the registration deadline for the November election is October 11. If you have not registered to vote, do so now; on November 8, "Just Say 'No!'"

Despite our best efforts, Prop. 102 may pass. I intend to do everything in my power to ensure that it does not, but I also intend to prepare for its passage. At our High Holiday services, we repeatedly asked ourselves: what do I stand for? When do I take a stand? Regardless

of your antibody status, you can take a stand on Prop. 102: that if it should pass, you will not comply with its provisions. When the Nazis ordered the Danish Jewish community to don yellow stars, the Danish king led his nation in pinning the first star onto his own clothing. The campaign to isolate the Jews from the rest of the nation failed because the populace refused to cooperate. Should efforts be made to implement the reprehensible provisions of this initiative, those who are affected by it will need the support and protection of the entire community. Those who are living with AIDS or who are at risk are busy taking care of their health; the rest of the community needs to support them by laboring to defeat prejudicial and life-threatening laws and working to block their implementation.

The following is the text of a proposed "Pledge of Non-Compliance." There are four levels of resistance in this pledge, beginning with voting "no." We hope that we will not have to act on the following three provisions. All of these actions are offenses under Prop. 102.

I. I will vote "No" on Prop. 102 and I will encourage others to do so.

II. If it should pass:

—I will not report myself to public-health officials.

—I will not report the names of any other people to public-health officials.

—I will not submit to involuntary testing of my blood for the HIV virus or antibodies.

III. I pledge that I will participate in non-violent direct action to protect myself and others from being harmed by its enforcement.

IV. Because the effect of Prop. 102 will be to drive people underground in fear, I agree to make my pledge of non-compliance public.

I have made this pledge of non-compliance. What will you do?

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Oneg Sponsors

During August onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 5 Fannie Levine, in honor of her son David's birthday

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

NOTE: Due to scheduling difficulties based on the High Holy Days, the September Va'ad report did not make our press deadline. It will be printed next month along with the October report.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alita Rosenfeld & Howard Blechman, co-chairs, Stephanie Hannaford, and David Stein (general editorial and production), Amy Blenheim (photos), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Frank Hyman, Alex Ingersoll, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Pagesetter Typography and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

Education Committee

Israel—Arab and Jewish

Starting October 12, the Education Committee is presenting a five-part speaker/discussion series exploring the current situation in Israel. The series will present six noted personalities, each speaking on a different aspect of the current situation.

October 12—John Rothmann, political and foreign-policy consultant, will present the history of the Arab-Jewish conflict.

October 19—Dr. Zev Brinner of the Department of Near East Studies of the University of California, Berkeley will lead a program on the upcoming elections and the role of Jordan in the Middle East Peace Process.

October 26—Shaol Kimhi, Kibbutz Shaliach (Emissary) to the Bay Area along with Mohammed Hijazi from the Foundation for Mideast Communication will examine the Intifada, current Palestinian Arab uprising.

November 2—Marcia Freedman, former member of Israel Knesset and Uri Ben-Eliezer, post-graduate fellow at Stanford University, will speak on the secular-religious relations in Israel.

November 9—a wrap-up discussion on Jewish identity and the state of Israel. All programs will take place at Sha'ar Zahav starting at 7:30 pm.

Cost for the series will be \$10 for Sha'ar Zahav members and \$20 for non-members. For additional information please contact the office.

Condolences

We at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav extend our sympathy to the following members who have suffered a recent loss.

To **Arthur Slepian** on the loss of his mother, Sarah Slepian.

To **Steve Gaynes** on the loss of his father, George Gaynes.

To **Michael Zimmerman** on the loss of his cousin, Manning Gurian.

To **Congregation Sha'ar Zahav** on the loss of its friend, Ori Sherman; its member, Jay Platt; and its member John Golebowski.

Unveiling

The unveiling of the gravestone for Cheryl Orvis will be on Sunday, October 30, 10 am in Hills of Eternity Cemetery. Friends and congregational family are invited.

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Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Brian Ellis & Steven Farmer |
| 12 | David Stein & Alex Ingersoll |
| 17 | Diane Spaugh & Marjorie Hilsenrad |
| 22 | Stephen Walters & David Marks |
| 29 | Deborah Lieberman & Abigail Abbuehl |
| 29 | Bill Goldstein & Chris Archuleta |
| 30 | Gail Friedlander & Gail Atkins |



Simchat Torah Celebration

The Bay Area's annual Soviet Jewry Simchat Torah Freedom Celebration and Street Fair will be held on Sunday, October 9 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm in front of the Soviet Consulate, 2790 Green St.

Guest speaker this year will be former refusenik Ari Volvovsky. The street fair features special exhibits, game booths and entertainment. This event is an opportunity to show our solidarity with Soviet Jews struggling to maintain their Jewish heritage and to emigrate.

For additional information call 957-1551 or 585-1400.

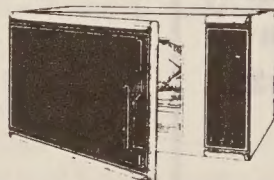
Religion, Politics & Community

The meeting of religion and politics will be the topic of a community forum on Saturday evening, November 4, sponsored by CSZ, MCC/SF and other community organizations. The program will begin at 7:30 pm at Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St.

"Rights and Responsibilities," a documentary film about the battle to pass the New York City gay-rights bill will be screened. The film will be followed by a panel discussion, including: New York gay activist Andy Humm, CSZ's Roberta Achtenberg, Barbara Cameron of Lesbian Agenda for Action and vice-president of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, MCC Pastor Jim Mitulski and Rabbi Yoel Kahn. Discussion and refreshments will follow. Save the date; further details will be in next month's *Forward*.

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Facts From Our Food Bank

The AIDS Foundation Food Bank clearly needs and appreciates Sha'ar Zahav's continued support.

When CSZ first began delivering to the Food Bank, we would see a few clients, mostly young caucasian men. Now we see people of both genders, and a variety of cultures and ages.

There are always a dozen or so clients waiting in the lounge for Food Bank services. Someone usually notices our schlepping, holds the doors, asks where we are from, and thanks us all very much.

It was exciting to notice the addition of freezers at the Food Bank last fall and to learn that they and the chickens filling them were donated by MAZON. Moreover, it was especially thrilling to know that our cookbook money helped fill the freezers. Along with their groceries, clients of the Food Bank had a steady supply of high-quality protein from the freezers.

For the past two months our "freezers" have been empty. Our cookbook money has been used and the Food Bank's cash donations must go to purchase staples. Canned pork and beans is often the only available protein—even for the Jewish clients.

Obviously many clients, regardless of need, find "schnorring" very difficult. So it is very comforting to witness the continued skill and professionalism of the AIDS Foundation staff and Food Bank personnel. When a new client



Photo by Amy Blasenheim.

comes by and just can't seem to wait, someone appears and says, "Come in for a while and I'll get what you need. Would you like anything in your coffee now?" Whenever we witness one of these scenes, we stop our kvetching about the sometimes inconvenience of making the deliveries.

Can you volunteer the one hour it takes to make a delivery? One person alone can do it without getting a ticket or dislocating his or her back because the new first-floor location has easy semi-legal parking, shopping carts, and readily available people to help. If you are interested in this mitzvah **please** contact Jenny at the office.

CSZ to Host Forum on AIDS Activism

As the elections approach and our community makes a final push to ensure the defeat of Prop. 102, the congregation will host a forum which will focus on political action and social issues in the AIDS crisis. The forum, which will take place on Sunday evening, October 30, at 7:00, will bring together people in the community who have taken different approaches to confronting misinformation, prejudice and irresponsibility during the epidemic, from civil disobedience to legislative change to informing public opinion. The Social Action Committee, which is planning the event, hopes that the panel will inspire our members and others who attend to formulate their own personal response to the need for action, and will also assist the congregation in developing its communal strategy. Among those who have agreed to sit on the panel are Cleve Jones of the Names Project and participants in other activist groups. Members and the entire community are encouraged to attend this important pre-election event.

—Jonathan Mesinger

Classified Ads

THE URGE TO MERGE: INTIMACY AND COMMUNICATION. A workshop for lesbians, Sunday, November 6, 11-4. Call Nanci Stern, M.A., 863-5081 or Wendy Moser, M.A., 526-8876.

"GEY GESUND" HOUSESITTING: While you're away—relax. We'll take good care of your home, plants, pets, etc. Longer stays (one month plus) preferred. Shorter stays considered. Call Leila during office hours: 268-7037.

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						20 Tishri 1 Kadimah, 9am Morning Services, 10:30am Women's Dance, 8 pm
21 2 Ensemble, 4-6pm Simchat Torah Service, 7:30pm	22 3 Education Comm., 7:30pm, Library	23 4 Hebrew class, 7:30pm Newsletter, 7:45pm Parashah class, 8:45pm	24 5	25 6 Membership Comm., 6:30pm, 1336 Ninth Ave. Long-Range Planning, 7:30pm	26 7 Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15 pm Late Services, 8:15pm	27 8 Kadimah, 9am Western Regional Conference, Malibu
28 9 Simchat Torah Rally, 10:30am Ensemble, 4-6pm Western Regional Conference	29 10 Va'ad Meeting, 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline	30 11 Hebrew class, 7:30pm Parashah class, 8:45pm	1 Heshvan 12 Soviet Vigil, 11:30am Newsletter, 7pm Israel Series, 7:30pm	2 13 Women's Chavurah, 7pm, 648-5526	3 14 Children's Service, 6:30pm Late Services, 8:15pm	4 15 Kadimah, 9am
5 16 Ensemble, 4-6pm	6 17 Women's Chavurah Workshops, 7:30pm, 239-4147	7 18 Hebrew class, 7:30pm Parashah class, 8:45pm	8 19 Ritual Comm. mailing party, 7pm Israel Series, 7:30pm	9 20 Building Comm., Bikkur Cholim Comm., Social Action All at 7:30pm	10 21 Services, 8:15pm Prop. "W" Forum after services	11 22 Kadimah, 9am
12 23 Ensemble, 4-6pm	13 24 Women's Chavurah Workshops, 7:30pm, 239-4147	14 25 Hebrew Class, 7:30pm Parashah class, 8:45pm	15 26 Israel Series, 7:30pm	16 27 Ritual Comm., 6:30pm Newsletter Mailing, 7pm, 11 Grandview Terr.	17 28 Services, 8:15pm	18 29 Kadimah, 9am Morning Services, 10:30am
19 30 Kaiser Brunch, 10:30am	20 31 Women's Chavurah Workshops, 7:30pm, 239-4147					

Ritual Calendar

Friday, September 30

Chol Hamoed Sukkot
Service, 8:15 pm
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Sue Douglass
Ecclesiastes will be read.

Saturday, October 1

Service, 10:30 am
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Leslie Bergson
Chol Hamoed Sukkot

Sunday, October 2

Simchat Torah
Service, 7:30 pm
Daniel Chesir, Ora Prochovnick and
Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Friday, October 7

Parshat Bereshit
Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15 pm
Aaron Frankel
Late Service, 8:15 pm
Bill Schlichter and Dana Vinicoff
The Torah will be read.

Friday, October 14

Parshat Noah
Children's Service, 6:30 pm
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Aaron Frankel
Late Service, 8:15 pm
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Sue Douglass

Friday, October 21

Parshat Lech Lecha
Service, 8:15 pm
Daniel Chesir

Friday, October 28

Parshat Vayera
Service 8:15 pm
Jose Luis Moscovich & Rabbi Yoel
Kahn

Saturday, October 29

Service, 10:30 am
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Bill Schlichter

Friday, November 4

Parshat Chayei Sarah
Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15 pm
Daniel Chesir
Late Service, 8:15 pm
Ora Prochovnick & David Stein

Book Review from our Library Committee

Novitch, Dawidowicz and Freudenheim, *Spiritual Resistance, Art from Concentration Camps 1940-1945*.

In one of my first conversations at Sha'ar Zahav with a member of the "old guard" I was told, upon informing him that I am an architect and an artist, "but Jews aren't architects or artists!" No, I was not truly offended. It was more a matter of surprise that such a stereotype still existed, especially in someone who I expected would have long ago shaken free of such ideas.

Just to put my own nail in the "Jews are only doctors, lawyers, rabbis or merchants" coffin, let me lay a few names on you. In turn-of-the-century France there was Camille Pissarro and Frederick Bazille. In the first half of this century Morton Schamberg, Ben Shahn, Oscar Kokoschka, Max Beckmann, Marc Chagall, Max Weber and Alfred Stieglitz were prominent. Leaders in the current Modern Movement are, or were, Adolph Gottlieb, Mark Rothko, Phillip Pearlstein, Alex Katz, Lee Krasner, Miriam Shapiro and Elie Nadelman. Yes, you guessed it; all Jewish artists. And, these are just names off the top of my head; with true research I could probably come up with several times as many. No, I'm not now going to list Jewish architects for you; let's just concern ourselves with the arts of pencil, paint and chisel.

Why did I list 16 artists instead of two or three? Just to point out that when a Jewish heritage and artistic ability—or even genius—mix, it ain't a fluke! Okay, that's out of the way. On to the book.

Whether trained or innate, the artistic talent that can be found in the hand and mind of a Jew clearly shows through in *Spiritual Resistance, Art from Concentration Camps 1940-1945*.

From Accatino to Zelenka, the artists are unknowns but their work will remain in my mind longer than many, or perhaps even most, of the pieces I've seen produced by names such as Picasso or Warhol. Where do we draw the line on talking up, or reviewing, the horror and pain and sorrow that the Jewish people have suffered? Some of us feel "enough already" and some of us make it a regular ritual. Whatever your attitude, take a little time and, if nothing else, thumb through the pages of this book until an

image strikes you. It may be the painful expression of Yitzhak Katzenelson in his portrait by Lea Lilienblum (page 176) or one of the many camp views crowded with emaciated forms. What you will find that is common to virtually all the illustrations is that they are imbued with feeling, or, if you like, spirit. The children-oriented pieces struck me most of all. The little boy by Charlotte Buresova (page 60) has big dark eyes bright and beautiful with promise. The face has no particular expression; it does not need one, they eyes say it all ... this beauty and promise is gone, the victim of ignorance and hatred and insanity. Then there is the older child by Irene Awret (page 46). To look at his self-assured stance you know he has not yet suffered, and then you realize what he is about to know of cruelty and you feel for him and you hate all the terrible waste. Malvina Schalkova's self-portrait (page 168) shows us a woman in a stoical pose that, nonetheless, has a strong undercurrent of inner resolve. Was she showing us, in this beautifully sensitive pencil rendering, her determination to see it through? Leon Landau's "Portrait of a Young Man" (page 114) raises questions. Look into the eyes; is it dejection or anger or sorrow or hunger or bewilderment? It is typical of many of the faces, you cannot be sure what they are saying, but you know they are most definitely saying something.

The accompanying text is a description of the Ghetto Fighters' Museum, its collection, and a short historical review of the Holocaust. If you haven't the time or patience to read it, don't bother. In the case of this book, it's okay, since its essence and statement are in the pictures.

If you want an image to close your viewing of *Spiritual Resistance*, make it this double image. First look into the eyes of Amos Szwarc's "Three Children from the Lodz Ghetto" (page 202) and then turn to Aldo Capri de Resmini's "Children's Corpses in front of the Crematorium" (page 70). Give yourself a minute or two to think about these images while you remember the great numbers of children they represent. Then ask yourself, will it ever be "enough already"?

For this unforgettable gift to our library from Leslie Bergson, thank you.

—Ken Burke

Remember to keep us up to date. If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our *yahrzeit* or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

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Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

AIDS Fund

Wendy Gouder, in honor of the
ARCAIDS Theatre

Howard Blechman, in honor of Bruce
Katz's new home.

Education Fund

Sharyn Saslafsky, in memory of
Marian Karas, mother of Linda
Silver

General Fund

Eileen Dunn, in loving memory of
Cheryl Orvis and with prayers for
her father's speedy recovery

Bruce Katz, in memory of John
Golebowski

Eric Keitel and Aaron Cooper, in
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of the anniversary of Jon Funk &
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memory of Jack Gastworth

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Frank Hyman, in honor of David
Stein's not walking in the AIDS
Walkathon

Proposition "W"

After services on Friday, October 21, the congregation will conduct a forum on San Francisco's Prop. "W"—an initiative titled "Middle East, Justice and Human Rights." Prop. "W" calls for the United States government to recognize Palestinian self-determination and statehood.

Sha'ar Zahav and Prop. W

Recently a flyer appeared incorrectly linking Congregation Sha'ar Zahav with the Yes on Prop. "W" (San Francisco ballot initiative favoring a Palestinian homeland) campaign.

In general, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav does not take positions on political issues. In keeping with this, the congregation has not taken a position on Prop. "W," and will not be taking any position on Prop. "W."

—Robin Leonard, President

Hal Podgur, in memory of Mrs. Anna
Lewis, mother of Joyce York
Estate of John Golebowski
Edward Tanovitz

Steve Greenberg, in honor of David
Glassberg and Tristano Palermino

Ben Schalit, in honor of Richard
Inlander's birthday

Amy Blasenheim, in honor of Tristano
Palermino and David Glassberg's
celebration

Sanctuary Fund

Roxanne Neal, in honor of Laurie
Davis' Bat Mitzvah

Women's Chavurah

Jewish Women's Workshop

Some claim that anti-Semitism in the United States is either dead or exists in a relatively benign form. We disagree. The latest form of Jewish Princess "jokes" is no more than anti-Semitism directed at women, and it is ugly. The Women's Chavurah is sponsoring a four-week workshop titled "Strategies of Anti-Semitism and Reclaiming Our Pride as Jewish Women," to examine the strategies of anti-Semitism, share experiences and look at what isolates us. Besides giving an intellectual framework, the workshop will provide a place to feel and express those emotions that are part of being a Jewish woman today—love, anger, embarrassment, fear and joy. Jenny Helbraun, an experienced peer counselor and Jewish support group leader, as well as our CSZ office manager, will facilitate the workshop.

The group will meet on four consecutive Mondays beginning October 17 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please call Jane Graeven at 239-4147. The fee is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members.

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A Committee's Work—and a Remembrance

After a year and a half on the Membership Committee, whose work I always saw as mostly fun and sociable, I am becoming aware of the deeply important mitzvah we perform. It took feedback from other congregations and a particularly moving incident for me to begin to see this.

Recently we received a membership application from Jay Platt, who indicated that he was a person with AIDS. When I phoned him for the welcome and information-exchange call I make to all applicants, his dad answered and told me that Jay was in the hospital.

I immediately let Rabbi Kahn know about the special circumstance of our prospective member. He suggested an immediate in-person interview with Jay, as he would likely enjoy visitors and it was difficult for him to talk on the phone.

David Gass, a former long-time member of the Membership Committee and currently a Shanti volunteer, volunteered to visit. A few hours after the visit, he called to ask if Jay's membership could be processed quickly, because Jay probably would not live until the next Va'ad meeting (when new applicants officially become members).

Since our by-laws require that all members be voted in by the Va'ad, I spoke to our president, Robin Leonard, who volunteered to call each person to get their votes by phone. A day later she told me that Jay was officially a member of our family. I wrote him an acceptance letter, but felt his membership ought to be something more than a letter and an abstract idea, so I decided to visit him myself.

A couple of days later I found myself with only an hour before work to visit Jay. I was tempted to procrastinate—get another hour of sleep, and what would I say to him anyway? But I roused myself and had a lovely, relaxed time with him. He dozed through part of the visit, but in our few minutes of conversation (during which I had difficulty understanding him—he had had a tracheotomy), I saw a unique and interesting man who showed more than one flash of wry Jewish humor. I asked if I might come again and he said he would like that, it was very boring in the hospital.

A few days later I learned that Jay had died just a day after my visit. His sister said that when he saw his acceptance letter to our congregation, a great change took place in him; he was sud-

denly ready for death and died peacefully. I was sad that Jay died before he could more fully enjoy his part in our community, and sad that I was not to see him again. But I felt good about the quick and compassionate response of our shul, and was glad to have been a part of it.

Now I have been thinking hard about the work of the Membership Committee. I am beginning to see that greeting people as they arrive at services is more than a chance to schmooze; it can be a way for a nervous stranger to become a part of our community. Several other congregations are beginning a greeting program, as well as a "buddy" program like ours where committee members phone new members a couple of times during their first year. These simple acts, along with our new member potlucks and other events, are essential first steps to forging a sense of community that starts at the individual level and comes from the heart. What we do can literally make a lifetime difference.

—Merry Luskin, Chair

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

- 2 Sharyn Saslafsky
- 4 Richard Inlander
- 5 Jeffrey Weil
- 7 Randy Heilbrunn
- 7 David Wasserman
- 7 Joey Finkelstein
- 7 Michael Zimmerman
- 8 Joella Hanely
- 11 Forrest Kincade
- 13 Wendy Weiss
- 13 Joshua Kennedy Rose
- 13 David Gellman
- 14 Michael Bettinger
- 20 Milton Estes
- 20 Ron Moskowitz
- 20 Bernard Pechter
- 21 Charles Norton
- 23 Seth Charney
- 24 Jerome Hipps
- 28 Yoel Kahn
- 29 Allan Berenstein
- 31 Jesse Hornstein

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Last of the Yentas

Since I've been typing Aunt Yente's columns for her over the past five years (Yente herself is always too busy planning menus to do anything as dull as typing), she left it up to me to explain that she has decided to move on. She hasn't yet decided between an ashram in Kathmandu or a condo in Miami Beach, but her column will no longer be appearing in the *Forward*.

She couldn't leave, though, without some "thank you"s: To all the wonderful folks at the *Forward*, who have put up with very strange orthography and sentence structure over the years; to David, Daniel, Nancy, Leslie and other friends, for consistently useful criticism and suggestions; and to Alex Ingersoll, whose quiet encouragement helped make her the Yente she is today.

Most of all, though, Aunt Yente wants me to thank all her *kinderlach*, near and very far, and to say how much she'll miss them. Her readers' enthusiastic and loving response has helped her find the strength to keep writing the *fershluginer* columns every month, but that's not all it has done. Aunt Yente asked me to remind you that no writer can say things wiser than her readers can hear, and in this respect she counts herself as having been very lucky.

—Garry Koenigsberg

President's Column

(Continued from page 1)

for many people. At the congregational leadership advance in 1987, many synagogue leaders struggled with what it meant for them—and for Sha'ar Zahav organizationally—to have sizable numbers of children amongst its ranks. A few of the fears expressed included: Would people who never had to "deal" with children before now have to have children around? Would more non-gay people join the congregation? Would Rabbi Kahn's time be spent mostly with the children? Would a significant portion of our financial resources be expended on them?

To our credit, none of these fears have been barriers to our accepting children into the CSZ family. In fact, the contrary has happened. At our annual meeting this past May, our synagogue membership unanimously voted to establish a religious school for our children. On Saturday, September 17, the formal education of our children began, as our Shabbat school, *Kadimah*, opened its doors.

Why such a turnabout? Perhaps we've been able to counter society's message to lesbians and gay men: that because we are apt to be childless, we cannot preserve our future; instead, we have recognized that Sha'ar Zahav's children are all our children—and our future.

—Robin Leonard, President

Naches

To Stacey Shuster and Joan Lefkowitz on the birth of Joshua Shuster Lefkowitz on August 24.

To Mike Rankin who was recently elected president of the board of S.F. State Hillel.

To Roberta Achtenberg for being chosen as the first recipient of the BACW Community Service Award.

To Steve Elman on his recently purchased townhouse in Fremont.

To Bruce Katz on his new home in Glen Park.

UAHC
Regional Biennial
Northern California Council
February 24–26, 1989
Monterey, California

John M. Golebowski 1905–1988

On September 1, John Golebowski, a member of CSZ, died at the San Francisco Jewish Home for the Aged. Born in Poland and orphaned at an early age, he was raised by an aunt in New Jersey. John moved west in the 1920s, working in Yosemite National Park and then becoming a merchant seaman. He moved to San Francisco in 1935.

Long estranged from his three siblings on the East Coast and from his Jewish upbringing, John was "discovered" in 1979 by the San Francisco Jewish Family & Children's Services Senior Outreach Program. Sha'ar Zahav volunteers responded to the agency's request to provide companionship to John and to other elderly, isolated Jews in the Tenderloin district.

John first attended CSZ at Rosh Hashanah 1979. He was moved by many things, not the least of which included large-enough print in the prayerbooks for him to read. He was particularly moved by the number of friendly women (he was soon to declare himself a "lesbian at heart"). Soon thereafter, John became a CSZ member, generously paying what dues he could from his Social Security income.

John's very special friends were Ron Lezell and Shelley Spiro, along with others he came to know and recall fondly even in his last days—Stephanie Hannaford, Eric Keitel, Irene Ogus, Cheryl Orvis, Leila Raim, Mike Rankin and Catherine Wisniewski.

Many of us will remember celebrating John's birthdays at Oneg Shabbats. On those occasion, his beaming smile attested to the love he felt from his synagogue, which accepted him and warmly included him. John lost his family early on but found another one, even larger, at the end of his life.



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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

שַׁעַר זָהָב

(415) 861-6932

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Robin Leonard
Vice President, Eric Keitel
Treasurer, Ben Schalit
Acting Recorder, Ellen Kugler

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Don Albert
Allan Berenstein
Tiela Chalmers
William Goldstein
Steve Greenberg
Jose Luis Moscovich
Alita Rosenfeld
Jonathan Schwartz
Dana Vinicoff
Richard Inlander (ex officio)

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am — check calendar for each month.

Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, Ken Burke
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Sue Douglass & Jill Rose
Cookbook Project, Sanford Friedman
Education, by committee
Finance, Don Albert
Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers & Daniel Chesir
Membership, Merry Luskin
Newsletter, Howard Blechman & Alita Rosenfeld
Oneg, Bill Ashley-Dobbin
Past Presidents Council, Leila Raim
Personnel, Irene Ogus
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky & Andy Zimmerman
Religious School, David Gellman & Ida Kuluk
Ritual, Steve Greenberg; assistant, Ora Prochovnick
Social Action, Jonathan Mesinger
Social Program, by committee
Women's Chavurah, Ann Biderman

Office Personnel:

Manager, Jenny Helbraun
Secretary, Leticia Montealegre

Office Hours: Mon. 9–5; Tue. 1–5; Wed. 10–6; Thu. 9–5; Fri. 11–5.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Member Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Liaison) and World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Ora Prochovnick, Liaison).

Yahrzeits

1 Harry Pierce, father of David Pierce
2 Morris Landesman, grandfather of Jonathan Goldman
5 (Tishri 24) Nathan Ogus, father of Irene Ogus
10 Rebecca Prengler, great-grandmother of Ann Biderman
11 (Tishri 30) Abraham Cahn, father of Isabel Fishman
14 (Heshvan 3) Abner Schmidt, grandfather of Don Albert
14 Leonard M. Rome, father of Leslie & Joanne Rome
15 Abraham Siegel, grandfather of

Barry Siegel
15 Leonard S. Ginne, father of Mindy Ginne
17 Shirley M. McCormick, mother of Michael J. McCormick, Jr.
21 Osna Frischman, mother of Ralph Frischman
21 Rose Shikora, grandmother of Cheryl Shikora Price
22 George Jalbert, friend of Jonathan Schwartz
23 David Newman, uncle of Allan gold
25 (Heshvan 14) Hyman Richshafer, grandfather of Sherie Ann

Koshover
28 (Heshvan 17) Hermina Tick, grandmother of Sandra Blair
29 Jim Williams, friend of Marc Lipschutz
29 (Heshvan 18) Harry Berenstein, father of Allan Berenstein
29 (Heshvan 18) George Israel Moscovitz, father of Ron Moskowitz
31 (Heshvan 20) Jennie Mantey, aunt of Bill Schlichter

Note: Yahrzeits are read on the Friday preceding the date.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

presents

A COMMUNITY FORUM ON AIDS ACTIVISM

A PANEL OF COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS WHO HAVE TAKEN DIFFERENT APPROACHES IN THE MOVEMENT TO SECURE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIR TREATMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS/ARC OR HIV INFECTION AND TO ENSURE A RATIONAL AND HUMANE SOCIAL RESPONSE TO THE AIDS EPIDEMIC WILL PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION DESIGNED TO:

- * PROVIDE US AS INDIVIDUALS WITH GUIDANCE AND MOTIVATION IN FURTHER DEVELOPING OUR OWN PERSONAL ACTION PLAN IN THIS CRISIS,
- * HELP US AS A CONGREGATION TO MORE CLEARLY DEFINE OUR ROLE AND STRATEGY FOR ACTION, AND
- * PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO COME TOGETHER TO LISTEN TO WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING, SHARE THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES, AND RECEIVE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO TAKE (OR CONTINUE TAKING) AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THIS STRUGGLE.

THIS FORUM COMES AT A PARTICULARLY CRITICAL TIME, AS THE COMMUNITY RALLIES TOWARD A FINAL PUSH TO DEFEAT PROPOSITION 102 ON NOVEMBER 8th. THE VA'AD OF CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV HAS TAKEN A STAND IN OPPOSITION TO 102, AND ENCOURAGES MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION TO RESPOND SIMILARLY TO THIS MEASURE.

Sunday, October 30 at 7pm

at the synagogue

Danvers at Caselli

AMONG THOSE PARTICIPATING WILL BE
CLEVE JONES (The NAMES Project) and individuals from ACT UP!,
The Forget-Me-Nots, The WEDGE Program, The NO on 102 Campaign,
& our Congregation

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND

